

enhance and satisfy the spirit of the existing Federal laws governing properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Initially, the structure was offered at no cost to any private individual willing to pay for its relocation and rehabilitation. The property was advertised in Preservation News, a publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and listed with several local real estate agencies. The State of Delaware made an additional offer of a relocation site north of and adjacent to the existing site. Unfortunately, estimates obtained for this undertaking were too costly (\$50,000-\$70,000) for the interested parties.

A secondary preservation initiative was then taken by the DOT through the offering of salvage rights for architectural materials from the structure. As agreed to in the Memorandum of Agreement, personnel from the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs were provided access to salvage any objects, details, or sections of architectural or historical merit. While this agency did not remove any materials, the Delaware Agricultural Museum did remove the interior doors for use in ongoing restorations. Finally, an offer of salvage rights was made to interested private individuals with the stipulation that the materials be used in the restoration or renovation of a house structure eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A number of individuals took advantage of this opportunity and as a result most of the usable architectural materials were salvaged prior to the demolition of the structure.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

Archaeological resources recovered during the data recovery program will be discussed according to yard areas. The division of the site into 1) East yard, 2) North yard, and 3) West yard aids both the description of the results and interpretation of the archaeological materials and features. For

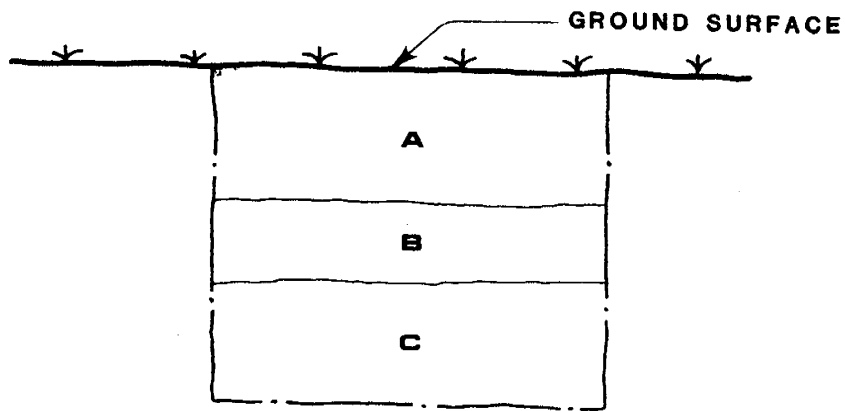
excavation unit locations, refer to Map 2. Appendix 9 is a general artifact inventory for the site, while provenience for those artifacts is presented in Appendix 8. In the discussion that follows, reference is made to two types of excavation units. 2 ft. x 2 ft. and 3 ft. x 3 ft. units are referred to as "Test Pits" and numbered 1 to 27. Units with larger measured dimensions usually 5 ft. x 5 ft., are labeled "Test Squares" and are numbered 1 to 21. In addition, a grid of shovel tests, containing rows A through N and columns (-1) through 17 was excavated in the east yard area and a portion of this yard was mechanically stripped of topsoil (Map 2).

#### East Yard Area

The east yard area stratigraphic profiles as exemplified by test pit 4 (Figure 3) show a disturbed/plowed topsoil approximately 0.75 ft. in depth underlain by yellow and yellow-brown clayey loams. Test Pits 1-5 were staked out to test stratigraphy prior to more extensive excavation. The plow zone and the upper part of the subsoil contained undiagnostic redware, porcelain, whiteware, bottle glass, window glass, nails, and other metal fragments. Test pit 3 contained an ash layer from 5 in. to 8 in. below the surface which yielded undiagnostic redware and window glass. A buried organic horizon was found between 16 in. and 20 in. below the surface but it contained only undiagnostic red-and whiteware, bottle glass, and window glass fragments. Test Pit 5 contained very little in the plow zone, but sizeable amounts of redware, pearlware, and creamware in the subsoil. This suggests that trash deposition may have occurred earlier here than in other areas of the yard.

The 5 ft. interval posthole test grid (Map 2) in this yard showed that close to Route 4, the shallow topsoil extended to only 0.4 ft. below the surface and contained road gravel. From 0.4 ft. to between 1.0 ft. and 1.4 ft. below the surface a yellow orange silty clay containing brick and coal fragments was

**FIGURE 3**  
**EAST YARD AREA**  
(Typical Stratigraphic Profile)  
**TEST PIT 4**



**KEY:**

**A - 10YR. 3/2.5 VERY DARK GRAYISH BROWN HUMUS WITH SOME ARTIFACTS**

**B - 10YR 3/4 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM WITH FEW ARTIFACTS**

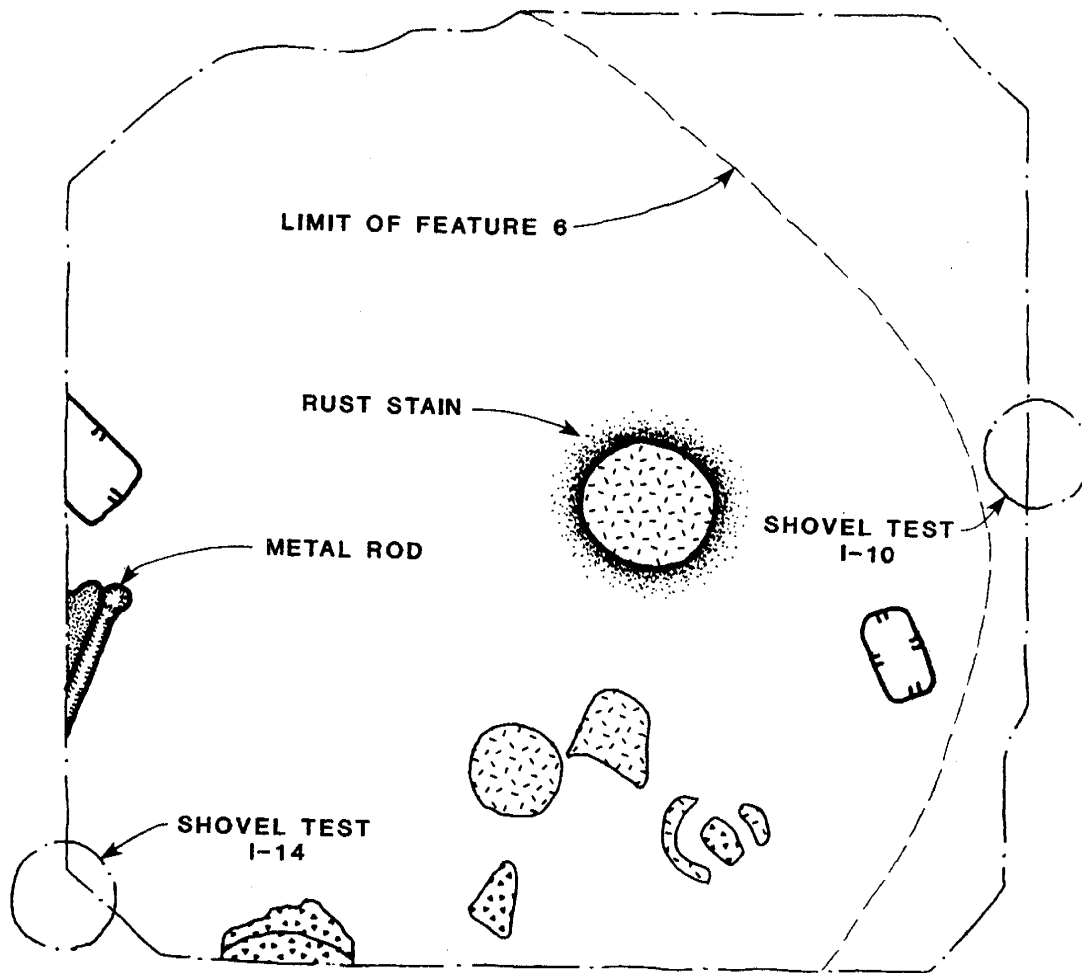
**C - 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN CLAYEY LOAM - STERILE SOIL**

encountered. It is suggested that the thin topsoil development probably occurred in the last 40-60 years. Soil disturbance was more evident nearer to the house foundation, where ceramic styles were heavily mixed. An ash deposit was found in shovel tests I-10, I-13, and I-14 extending from 1.0 ft. to 1.1 ft. below surface. Artifacts recovered from the lens included redware, whiteware, and window glass. Test I-14 yielded approximately 40% of a lead-glazed redware chamber pot. Shovel tests K-11 through K-15 also identified a thin ash deposit at the same level, but the artifacts in it and in the soil matrix above and below it, was negligible.





Shovel tests in row L contained fill and heavily mixed artifacts to a depth of 1.25 ft. below surface. This was probably related to the fill later uncovered in rows M and N. These two rows revealed the remains of a rubble wall which had been covered with earth fill to create a small berm. The fill was composed of orange sand mixed with brick fragments, ash, and assorted ceramics including whiteware, redware, and pearlware. The stratigraphic context of the artifacts suggests significant disturbance and/or long term intermittent random deposition of artifacts later subjected to plowing and landscaping.

The test pit grid in the east yard area: 1) located a previously unknown ash deposit buried beneath the plow zone (rows I and K), 2) relocated and identified the "stone feature" reported by Thomas (1980) as a stone rubble wall running eastwest along the northern edge of the yard area, 3) verified that the east yard area was thoroughly disturbed through plowing and/or landscaping with the exception of a single intact deposit located beneath the disturbance (Feature 6) provided distributional data which demonstrated artifact concentrations within 5 ft. of the modern kitchen addition and along the buried stone wall.

**FIGURE 4**  
**SQUARE 18-FEATURE 6**  
**PLAN VIEW**

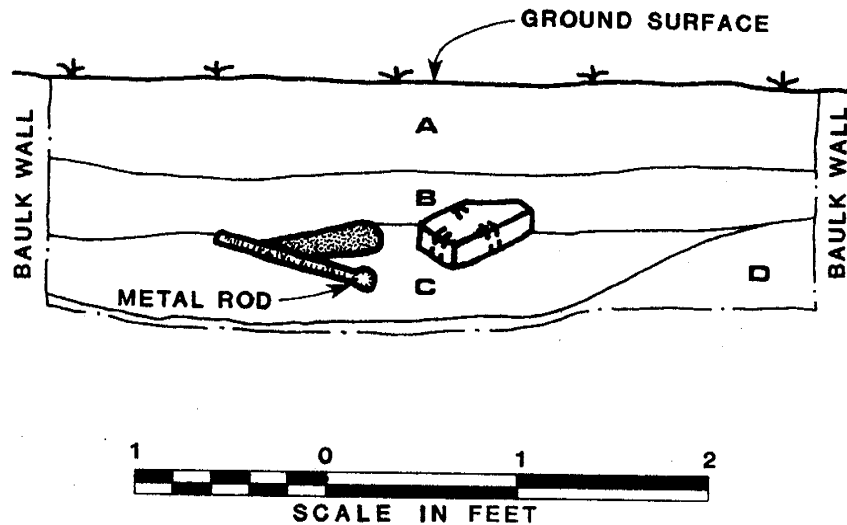


**KEY:**

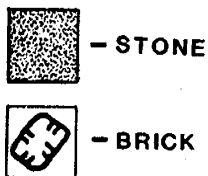
-  - STONE
-  - BRICK
-  - BROKEN CERAMIC VESSEL
-  - METAL CONTAINER



# **FIGURE 5** **SQUARE 18-FEATURE 6** **WEST WALL PROFILE**



## **KEY:**



**A - 10YR 5/3 BROWN SANDY LOAM WITH SOME COAL FLECKS PRESENT**

**B - 10YR 5/4 MOTTLED YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM WITH SOME COAL FLECKS PRESENT**

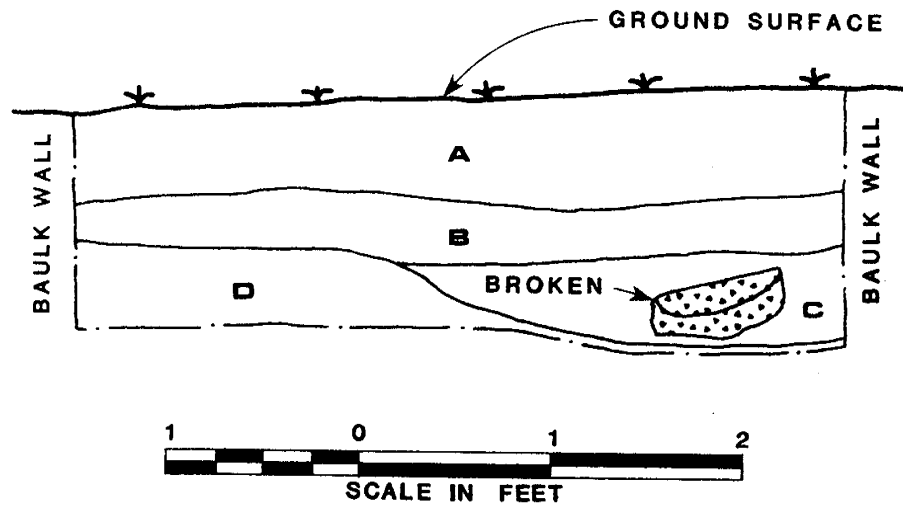
**C - 10YR 7/2 LIGHT GRAY ASH LAYER WITH COAL CHIPS, BURNED ROCKS, AND ARTIFACTS (Feature 6)**

**D - 10YR 6/6 BROWNISH YELLOW SANDY LOAM-STERILE SOIL**

# FIGURE 6

## SQUARE 18-FEATURE 6

### SOUTH WALL PROFILE



#### KEY:



**A** - 10YR 5/3 BROWN SANDY LOAM WITH SOME COAL FLECKS PRESENT

**B** - 10YR 5/4 MOTTLED YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM WITH SOME COAL FLECKS PRESENT

**C** - 10YR 7/2 LIGHT GRAY ASH LAYER WITH COAL FLECKS, BURNED ROCKS, AND ARTIFACTS (Feature 6)

**D** - 10YR 6/6 BROWNISH YELLOW SANDY LOAM-STERILE SUBSOIL

Ferguson House  
Sq #18  
Feature  
8-5-81

FEATURE 6

PLATE 6

SQUARE 18 - FEATURE 6

N



To further identify and clarify the feature and artifact densities determined from shovel testing, test squares 16 and 18 were excavated in the east yard. Test Square 16 was placed adjacent to the southeastern corner of the foundation in an area of high artifact density (Map 2). Heavy intermixing of soils and artifacts characterized the first 1.25 ft. below surface. Among the artifacts recovered were a quartz side-notched projectile point, a ceramic pipestem fragment from circa 1850-1880, and 20th century plastic fragments. Undisturbed soil was found from 1.25 ft. to 1.55 ft. below the surface and contained mid-19th century hand and finger-painted pearlware and mid-19th century shell-edge whiteware sherds.

Test Square 18 was excavated to identify the nature and extent of the trash pit/ash feature located in shovel tests I-10 and I-14. Located at the bottom on the 0.75 ft. thick plow zone was the previously identified 0.4 ft. thick ash layer. This was excavated as Feature 6. Present in over 95% of the square, it was irregular in both vertical and horizontal dimension (Figures 4, 5, 6). The bottom of the feature contained numerous decomposed graniteware sherds, large redware sherds, and bricks resting on sterile subsoil (Plate 6). The deposition of this feature occurred after 1850, based upon the presence of a pipe stem manufactured ca. 1850-1880 and the hand-painted whiteware.

An attempt to locate and identify a late 19th to early 20th century privy was also carried out in the east yard area. Informant Charles Lynch indicated that it was located in the northeast corner of the yard, at the intersection of the property line and the edge of the yard area. Test Squares 20-27 were staked out under the informant's direction in order to locate the privy. None of these test squares (Map 2) located any artifacts or pedological data to suggest a former privy hole. The yellow-brown plow zone found in all excavated units contained an average of 20 artifacts per unit, mostly 19th and 20th century ceramics, glass, and metal.

The informant indicated that the contents of rural farmstead privies were periodically removed and spread over a nearby field. However, some sort of stain or other feature indicator should have remained from this relatively recent feature. Why this was not found remains unexplained.

To further expedite location of the privy feature, a DelDOT backhoe was employed to strip the plow zone in this area (Map 2). This excavation also produced negative results. No soil stain, evidence of a foundation, or artifact concentration was located.

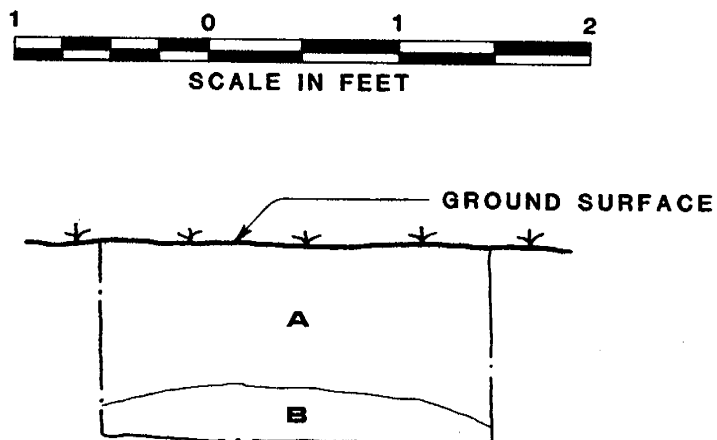
#### North (Rear) Yard Area

The northern boundary of excavation was determined by the proposed ROW (Map 2). In order to test the extent and integrity of cultural resources between this line and the limits of MAAR's testing (Map 2), test pits were excavated at 20 ft. intervals. Test Pits 11, 12, and 14 - 18 contained a mixture of 19th and 20th century artifacts in the plowzone, which overlay a sterile subsoil (Figure 7). Approximately 75% of the artifacts recovered from the plowzone were from the 19th century and 25% from the 20th century.

Test Pits 9 and 10 (Map 2), located in the northwestern corner of the north yard area, yielded a high density of artifacts compared to other excavations along the proposed ROW line. Almost all of these were 20th century artifacts, including miscellaneous window and bottle glass and nail fragments. This area, being in close proximity to the chicken house and blocked from view of the main house, would have provided an ideal trash disposal area.

Test Pits 6, 7, and 8 were excavated to identify the extent and construction, as well as the associated soil stratigraphy, of the stone wall (Feature 10) running through this area. Test Pit 6 was placed so as to straddle the wall and sample both sides of it. This revealed that the wall was 1.5 ft. in

**FIGURE 7**  
**YARD AREA NORTH OF BERM**  
(Typical Statagraphic Profile)  
**TEST PIT 14, NORTH WALL**



**KEY:**

**A - 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY LOAM WITH ARTIFACTS**

**B - 7.5YR 5/8 STRONG BROWN CLAY SAND-STERILE SOIL**

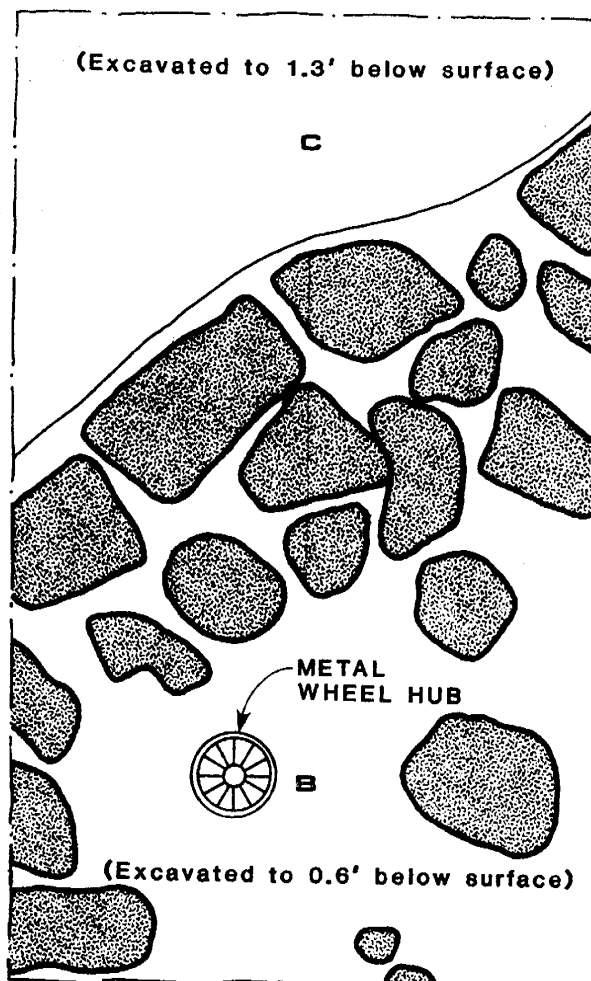
width, 1.25 ft. in depth and composed of medium to large quartzite cobbles with loose mortar and brick fragments placed in the interstices (Figures 8 and 9, Plate 7). Excavation north of the stone wall was taken to 1.3 ft. below the surface and revealed a plow zone containing a mixture of 19th and 20th century artifacts underlain by a sterile yellow-brown clay loam.

Two additional test pits, 7 and 8 (Map 2, Figs. 10, 11, 12, & 13) were excavated to bisect the stone wall at a location farther east than Test Pit 6. In Test Pit 7, large quartz and quartzite boulders were encountered immediately below the sod layer. At a depth of 0.5 ft. to 2.0 ft. below the surface on the northwestern side of the wall was a deposit of mid to late 19th century artifacts, including two whole bottles with embossed advertising, and some 20th century plastic. Sterile soil was found at 2.0 ft. below surface. This trash deposit is interpreted as a 19th century feature, with the plastic introduced from later plowing. The upper 0.5 ft. was fill containing brick and mortar fragments.

Test Pit 8 was placed north of Test Pit 7, leaving a 2 ft. wide balk between the two units (Map 2, Figs. 12 & 13). In the south end of the unit, at a depth of 0.4 ft. to 1.25 ft. below the surface, a dense fill layer was located consisting of stone, brick, and concrete block. This layer thins out to the north side of the unit and contained wire mesh and aluminum foil. Sterile subsoil was found at 1.9 ft. below the surface. The rubble layer was probably caused by the 20th century drainage channel excavated near the unit. That overburden, plus prior and subsequent plowing, explains the depth of artifacts in this unit.

The purpose of the next phase of excavation in the north rear yard area was to relocate and further identify soil or artifact anomalies previously identified by MAAR. To this end, Test Squares 5 and 7-10 were staked out over areas of high artifact density and/or visible surface anomalies.

FIGURE 8  
TEST PIT 6-FEATURE 10  
PLAN VIEW



KEY:



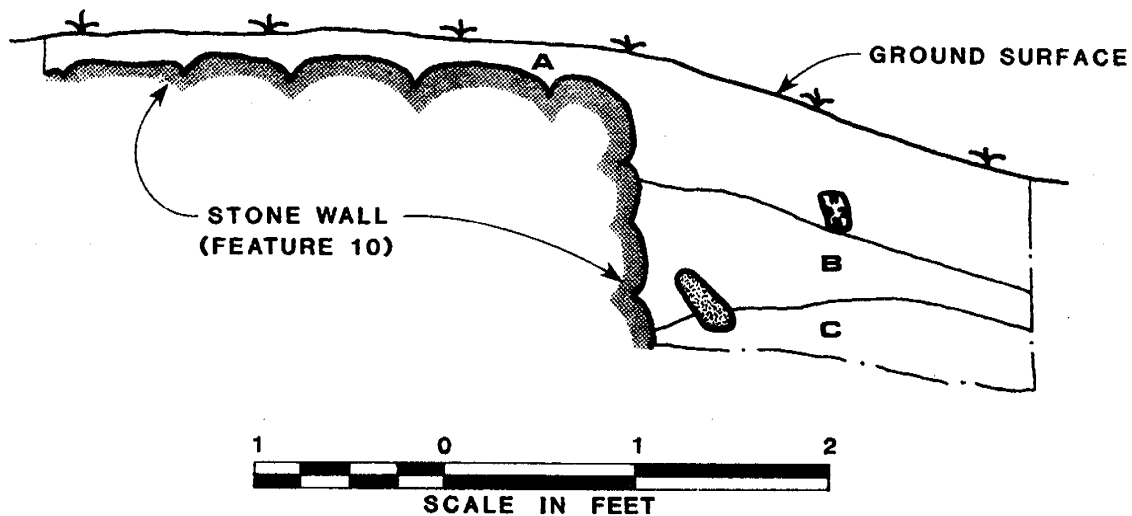
B - 10YR 3/8 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM MOTTLED WITH 10YR 5/8

C - 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY LOAM

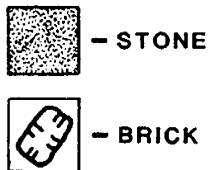
# FIGURE 9

## TEST PIT 6-FEATURE 10

### WEST WALL PROFILE



#### KEY:



**A - 10YR 3/3 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM MIXED WITH ROOTS**

**B - 10YR 3/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM MOTTLED WITH 10YR 5/8**

**C - 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY LOAM-STERILE SUBSOIL**

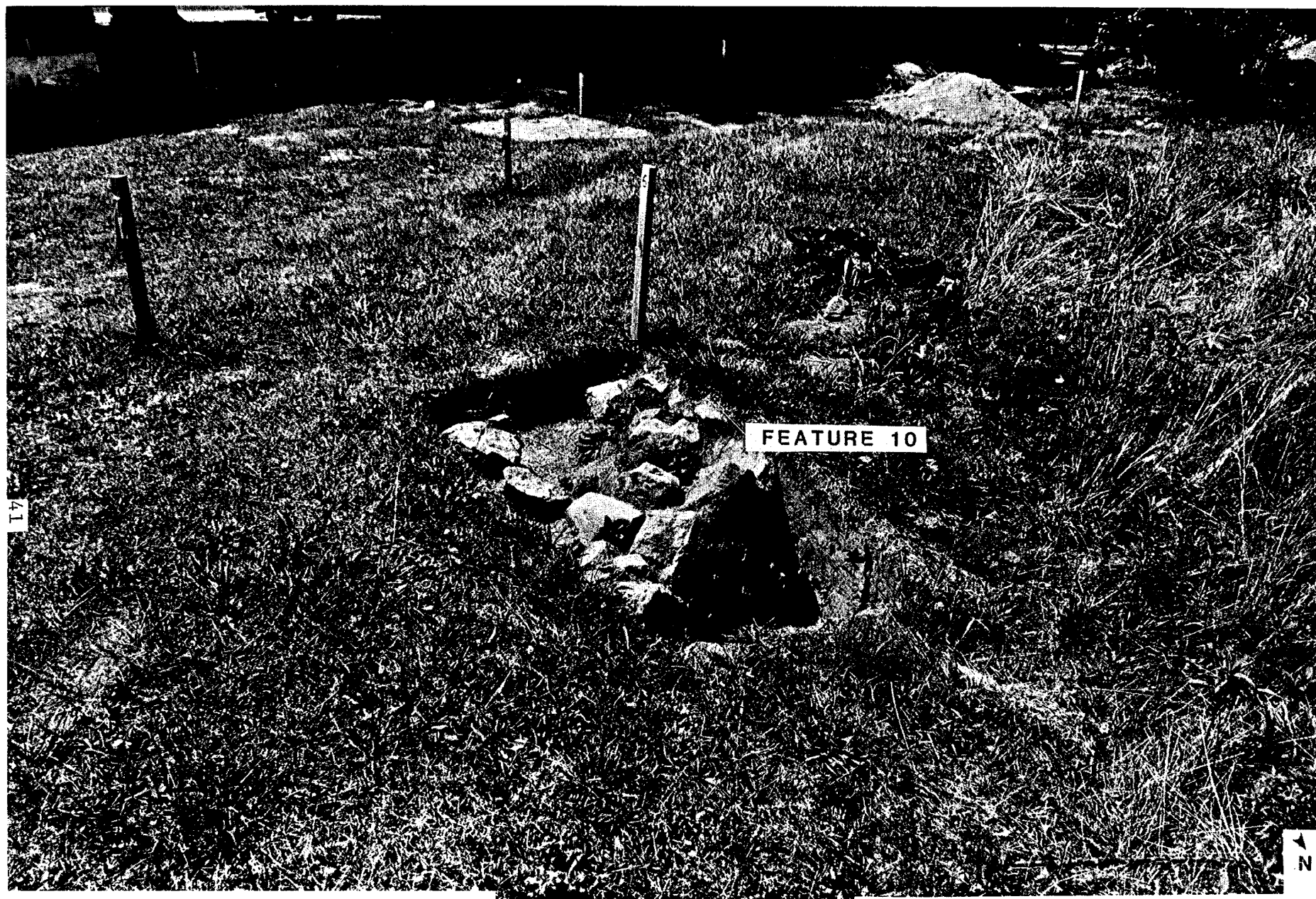
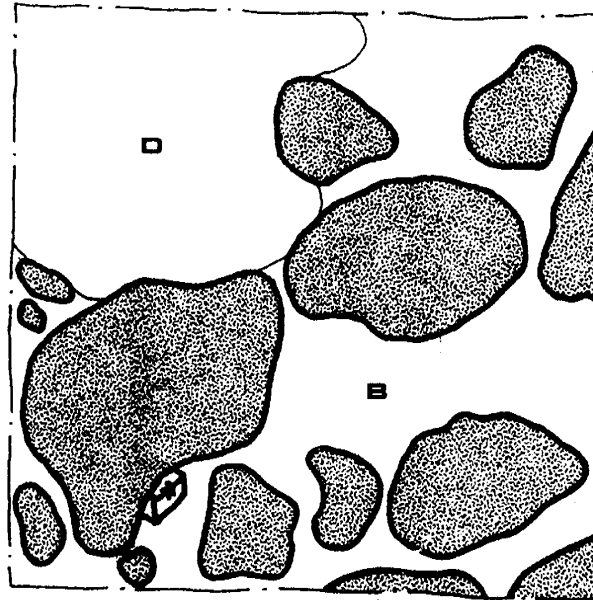


PLATE 7

TEST PIT 6 - FEATURE 10

FIGURE 10  
TEST PIT 7-FEATURE 10  
PLAN VIEW



KEY:



- STONE



- BRICK

■ - 10YR 4/3 BROWN TO DARK BROWN SILTY LOAM WITH ARTIFACTS

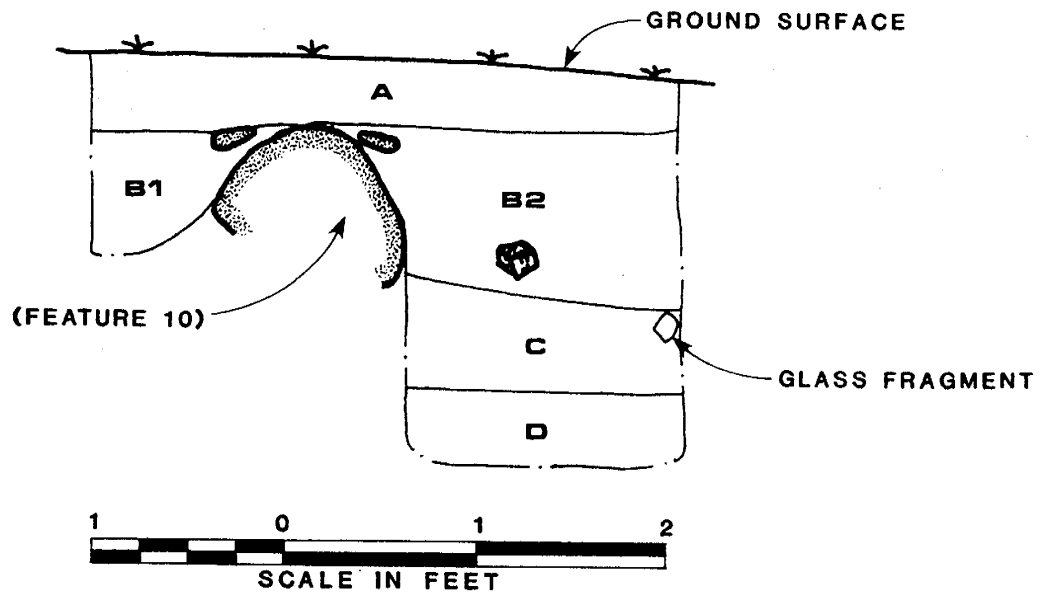
□ - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY-STERILE SOIL



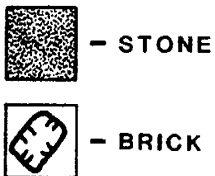
# FIGURE 11

## TEST PIT 7-FEATURE 10

### WEST WALL PROFILE



#### KEY:



**A** - 10YR 5/4 BROWN SILT WITH PEBBLES AND MANY ARTIFACTS

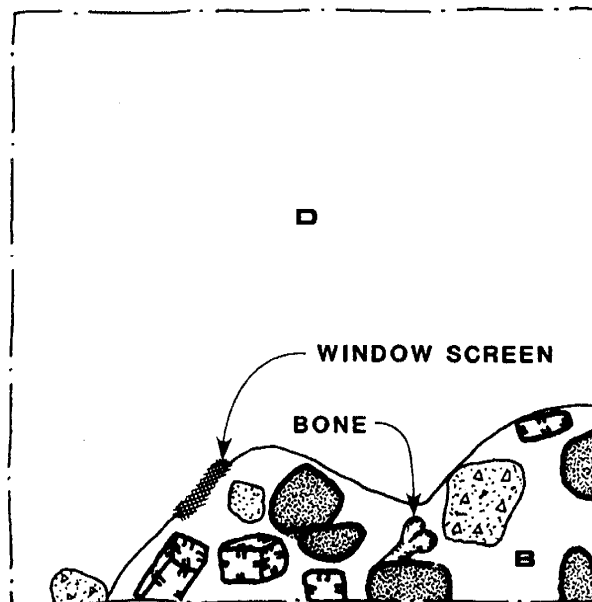
**B1** - 7.5YR 4/4 BROWN TO DARK BROWN SILTY CLAYEY LOAM WITH MANY ARTIFACTS

**B2** - 10YR 4/3 BROWN TO DARK BROWN SILTY LOAM WITH PEBBLES AND MANY ARTIFACTS

**C** - 10YR 4/4 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN CLAYEY LOAM WITH PEBBLES AND SOME ARTIFACTS

**D** - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY-STERILE SOIL

FIGURE 12  
TEST PIT 8-FEATURE 10  
PLAN VIEW



1 0 1 2  
SCALE IN FEET



KEY:



- STONE



- BRICK



- CONCRETE

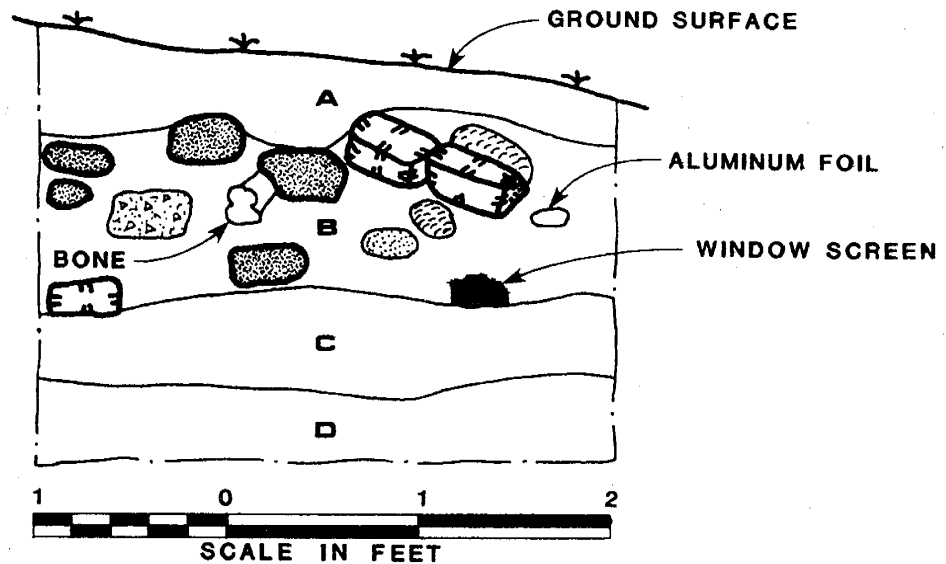


- PLASTER

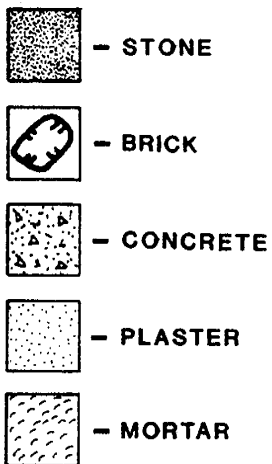
B - 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM WITH MANY ARTIFACTS

D - 7.5YR 5/8 STRONG BROWN CLAYEY LOAM-STERILE SOIL

**FIGURE 13**  
**TEST PIT 8 - FEATURE 10**  
**SOUTH WALL PROFILE**



**KEY:**



**A - 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN LOAM**

**B - 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM WITH MANY ARTIFACTS**

**C - 7.5YR 4/6 MOTTLED STRONG BROWN LOAM WITH ARTIFACTS**

**D - 7.5YR 5/8 STRONG BROWN CLAYEY LOAM**

Test Square 5 (Figures 14 and 15) was excavated northeast of the original back door (west section of house), approximately 3.75 ft. from the building foundation corner. After removal of the sod, two anomalies were apparent. In the south wall of the unit a previously excavated MAAR shovel test (V-7) was identified. In addition, a heavy concentration of small rocks and bricks was distributed in a southwest-northeast trending band (Feature 8). The areas outside of the stone feature were excavated to determine the vertical depth of the feature. Artifacts were found on both sides of the stone feature to depths of 1.5 ft. below the surface. The majority of recovered material was 19th ceramics with a lesser amount of nails and nail fragments (Appendix 9). No 20th century artifacts were found.

The hypothesized function of this stone feature is that of a walkway connecting the rear hall door of the structure with either the well or another structure which existed in the area of the present kitchen and back porch. This walkway was already covered from view in the 1920s (Charles Lynch, pers. comm.), and is not within Jasper Lynch's personal memory or period of which he has knowledge (1860-present). Thus it probably dates to an earlier occupation of the site.

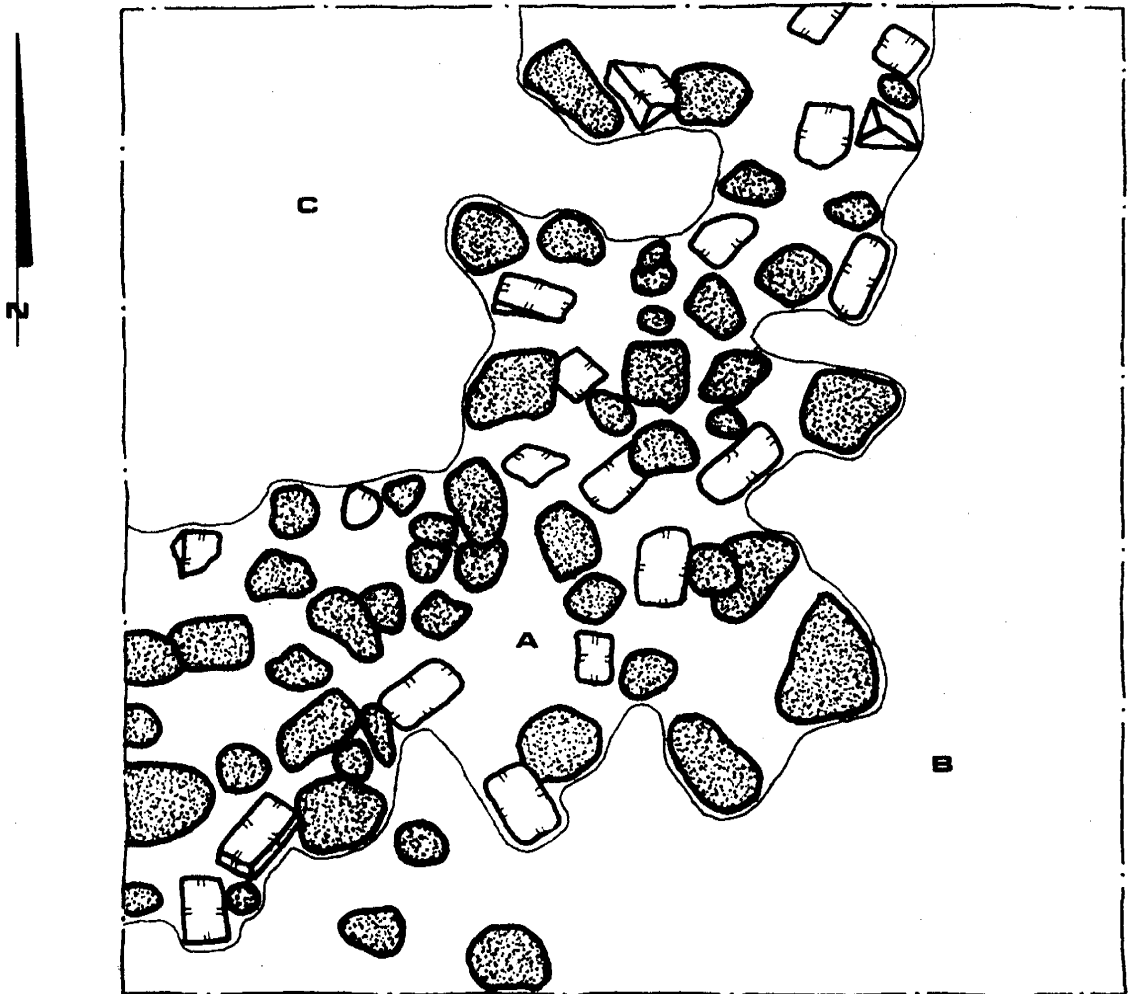
Test Square 10 was staked out due north of Test Square 5 and separated from it by a 5 ft. balk. The placement of the square was intended to intercept the walkway previously identified in Test Square 5. The topsoil extended to 0.5 ft. and the subsoil was excavated to 1.6 ft. below the surface. Large numbers of artifacts were found to 1.4 ft. below surface, including primarily redware and bottle glass in the topsoil and redware, pearlware, and an early 19th century pipe bowl in the subsoil.

However, no evidence of the walkway was found. The difference between the artifact types in the topsoil and those in the subsoil suggests that

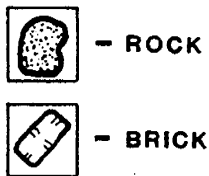
# FIGURE 14

## SQUARE 5-FEATURE 8

### PLAN VIEW



#### KEY:

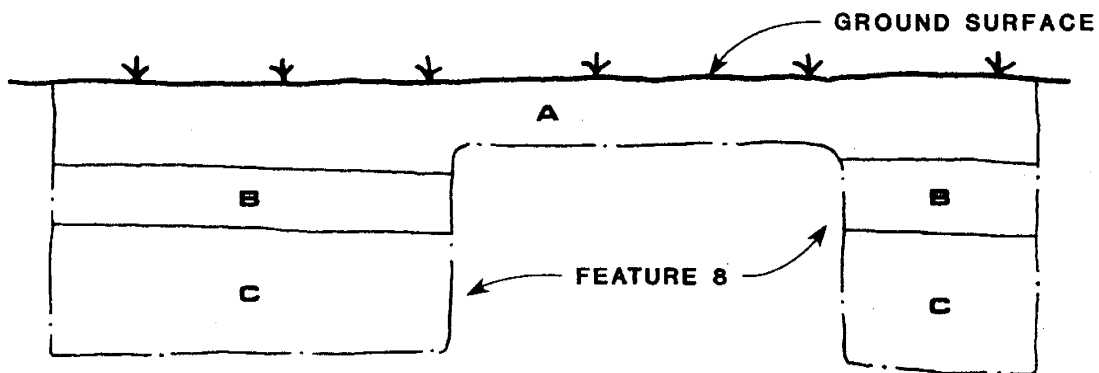


**A - 10YR 4/6 MOTTLED DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

**B - 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

**C - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

**FIGURE 15**  
**SQUARE 5-FEATURE 8**  
**NORTH WALL PROFILE**



**KEY:**

**A - 10YR 3/3 DARK BROWN SANDY LOAM**

**B - 10YR 4/6 MOTTLED DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

**C - 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

**D - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

the latter, containing the pearlware, is pre-1850 and may be coeval with the walkway. This is also in accordance with the recollection of informant Jasper Lynch, that the walkway predates 1860.

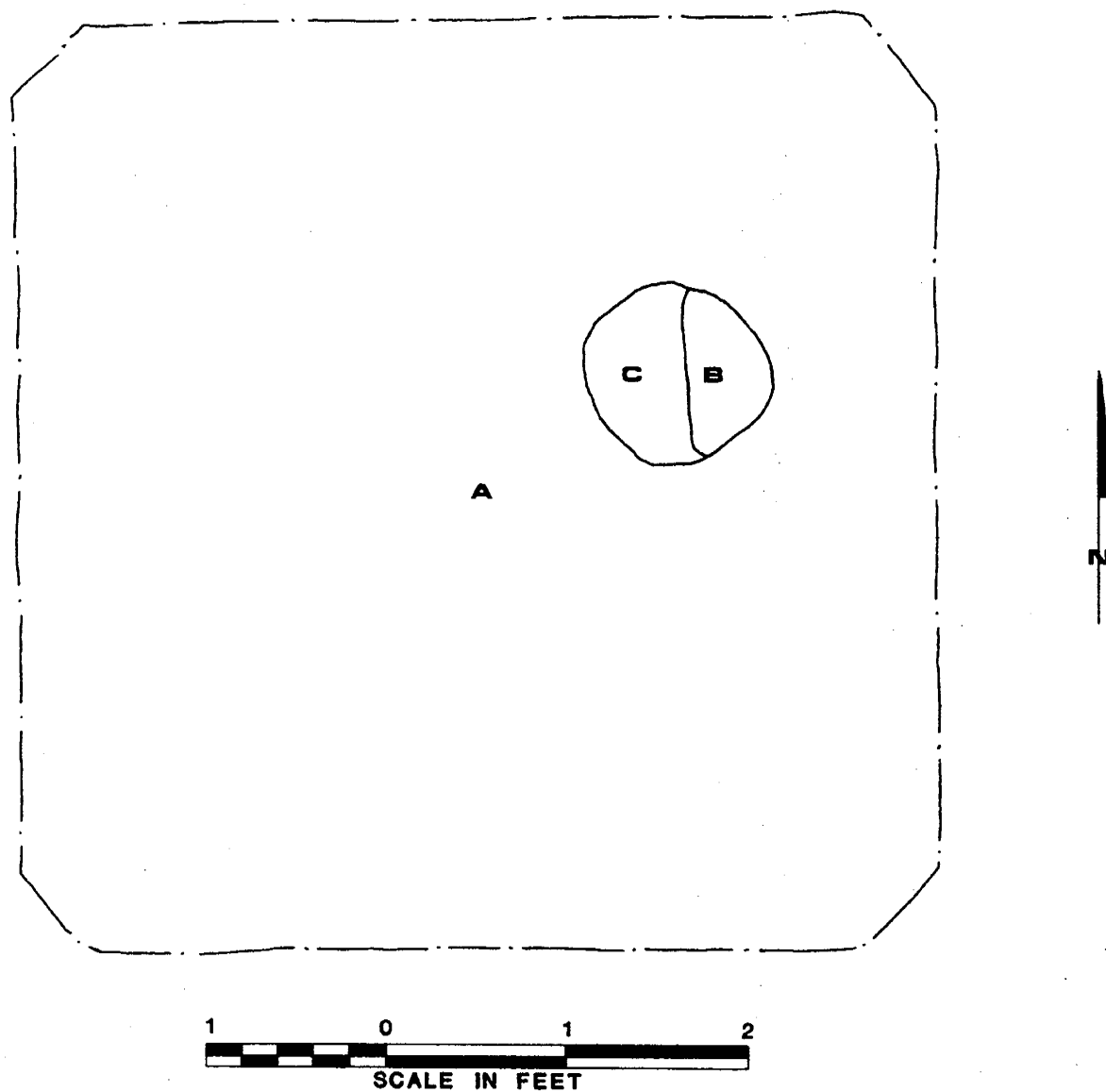
Test Square 7 was located 10 ft. south and west of Test Square 5 (Map 2) and yielded no significant features or soil disturbances. The upper 0.33 ft. contained window glass and ironstone. However, the level from 0.33 ft. to 0.66 ft. contained primarily creamware, plus some redware, pearlware, ironstone, and window glass, once again suggesting an early 19th century deposit.

Test Square 8 was located 5 ft. north and west of Test Square 7 and was excavated to a depth of 1.3 ft. below surface. A mixture of 19th and 20th century artifacts distributed throughout this depth indicates some disturbance has occurred here. Artifacts recovered were primarily whiteware, bottle glass, and wire nails, suggesting a late 19th century deposit. No features or indications of the cause of the disturbance was found.

Test Square 9 was located 5 ft. west of Test Square 8 and contained Feature 3, a circular, tapered posthole 1.3 ft. in diameter and extending 1.1 ft. below the surface (Figure 16). The topsoil contained a mixture of late 19th and 20th century artifacts (whiteware, wire nails, bottle glass). The posthole was uncovered at the bottom of this layer, approximately 0.4 ft. below surface. It contained a mottled orange clay fill and 18 porcelain, ironstone, bottle glass, and nail fragments. It may be a remnant posthole from a mid 20th century fence row which enclosed the yard area.

Two Test Squares were excavated in this area to further determine artifact patterns and to locate builder's trenches associated with the original western section of the house and the first addition (present central section).

**FIGURE 16**  
**SQUARE 9-FEATURE 3**  
**PLAN VIEW**  
**(0.9' Below Ground Surface)**



**KEY:**

**A - 10YR 3/2 VERY DARK GRAYISH BROWN SILTY LOAM**

**B - 10YR 4/2 DARK GRAYISH BROWN SILT**

**C - MOTTLED YELLOW AND BROWN SILTY LOAM**



Test Square 12 was staked out around the northeast corner of the foundation. Excavation of this unit did not reveal a builder's trench but did locate a small, circular posthole (Feature 11) which became visible at 1.2 ft. below the surface. This hole extended to 2.5 ft. below the surface and consisted of dark brown sandy loam in an orange clayey loam subsoil (Plate 8). Both contained 19th century ceramic and metal fragments. It may have been temporally and functionally associated with the initial construction of the western section, i.e. wall scaffolding supports.

Test Square 19 was excavated adjacent to the middle section of the house (Map 2). Although no builder's trench was found, a 1.8 ft. thick artifact-bearing deposit was encountered (Figure 17). Several distinct soil horizons were found (sandy clayey and sandy loams), but the artifact distribution, mostly whiteware and window glass, was uniform throughout.

#### West Yard

The purpose of archaeological excavations in this area was three-fold: 1) to excavate completely the stone feature identified by MAAR's shovel test; 2) to perform further testing for outbuildings or features in areas not covered by MAAR; 3) to determine the location, integrity, and extent of the barn depicted on Beer's 1868 atlas and known to former residents.

Initially, three units were excavated to determine the local stratigraphic sequence. Test Pit 13 was designed to investigate the fill area due west of the extant garage, Test Square 2 the elevated ground in the northwest corner of the grassy yard area, and Test Square 1 in the area where the remains of outbuildings were expected (Map 2).

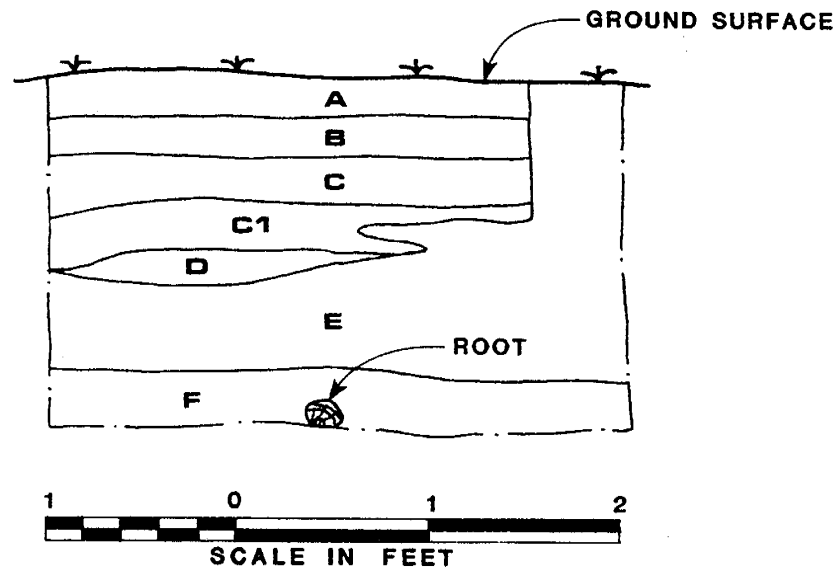
Test Pit 13 provided stratigraphic evidence to support the extensive filling hypothesized for this area. The soil was a homogeneous brown sandy clay which contained only four artifacts, suggesting a single episode of filling.



# FIGURE 17

## SQUARE 19

### EAST WALL PROFILE



#### KEY:

- A** - 10YR 3/3 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN LOAM
- B** - 10YR 3/3 MOTTLED DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM
- C** - 10YR 3/4 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM
- C1** - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY
- D** - 7.5YR 5/8 STRONG BROWN SAND WITH CLAY
- E** - 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN LOAM WITH CLAY
- F** - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN LOAM WITH CLAY

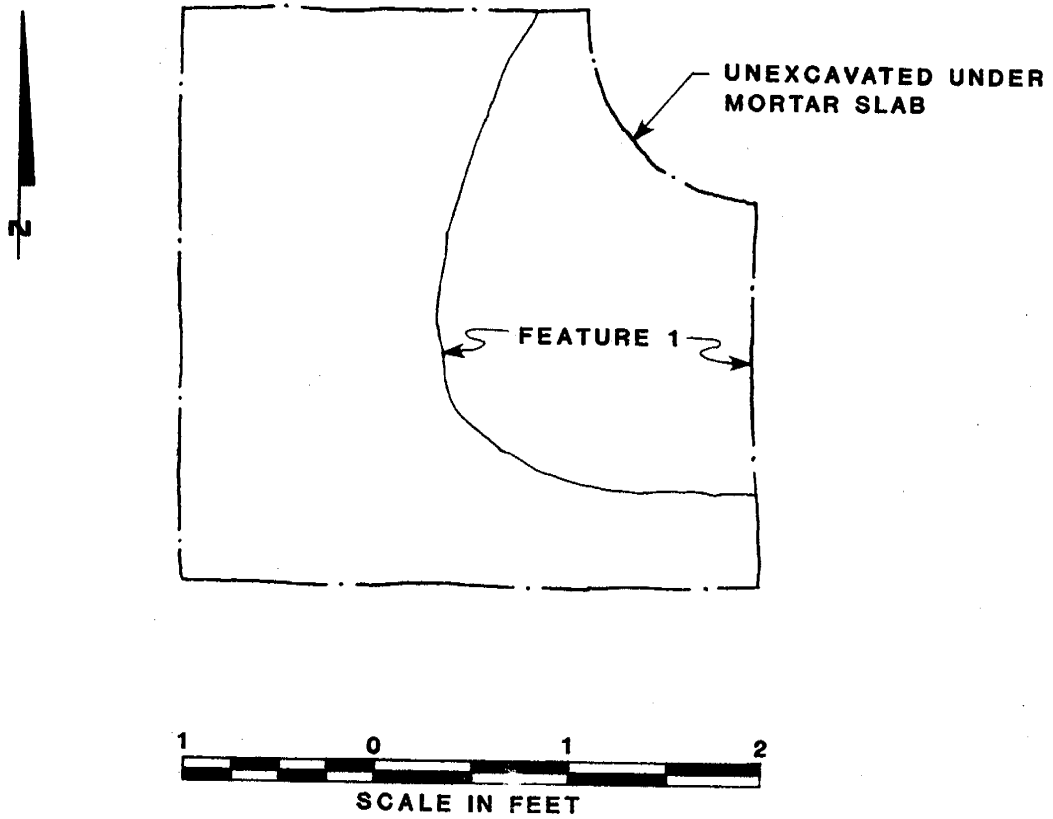
Later archival and archaeological evidence indicated that this unit was within the limits of the demolished barn.

Test Square 2 revealed a plowzone 0.8 ft. in depth which contained undiagnostic metal fragments, brick, bottle glass, and wire and cut nail fragments. A sterile clayey subsoil extended to a depth of 2.0 ft. below the surface.

Test Square 1 was excavated in close proximity to MAAR posthole test S-1, which had located foundation and building debris. In the northeast corner of the unit a wall was located at a depth of 0.45 ft. to 0.8 ft. below the surface (Figure 18, 19). At the same level and adjacent to the concrete slab was Feature 1, a shallow, dish-shaped midden containing oyster shells, numerous metal fragments, and undiagnostic whiteware, redware, and glass (Figure 18, Appendix 10). The feature appeared to be reworked by water action and subsequent topsoil deposition. Sparsely scattered undiagnostic artifacts were found to a depth of 1.6 ft. below the surface, the last 0.7 ft. consisting of clayey subsoil.

To further identify features present in the vicinity of Test Square 1, Test Square 3 was laid out over a visible surface depression (Map 2). Excavation identified Feature 2, an irregularly shaped soil disturbance approximately 3 ft. by 3 ft. and 1 ft. in depth (Figure 20, Plate 9). Artifacts contained within the feature were mostly of 20th century origin, including five complete screwtop liquor or wine bottles, tar paper, and aluminum foil. The soil disturbances are selective and not representative of a total excavation and redeposition of the entire area. The irregular, U-shaped nature of the feature profile strongly suggests an origin as an animal burrow with subsequent filling by accidental surficial artifacts and purposefully deposited bottles.

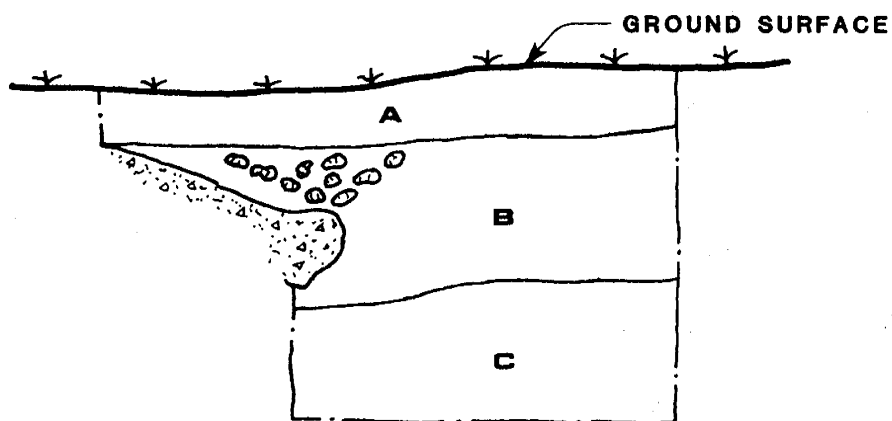
**FIGURE 18**  
**SQUARE 1-FEATURE 1**  
**PLAN VIEW**



# FIGURE 19

## SQUARE 1-FEATURES 1 & 4

### EAST WALL PROFILE



#### KEY:



- AREA OF MORTAR RUBBLE (FEATURE 1)



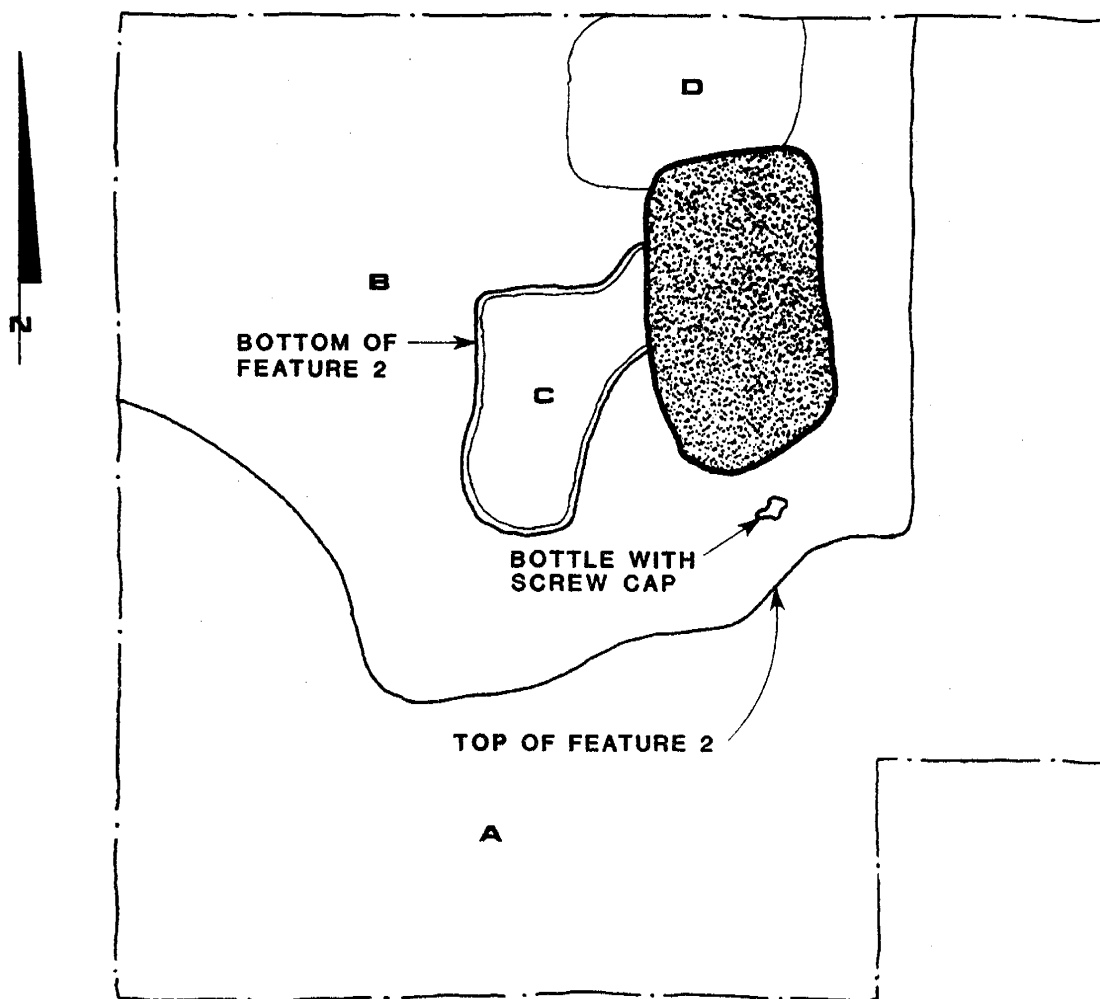
- MORTAR SLAB (FEATURE 4)

**A** - 10YR 4/4 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN LOOSE SANDY LOAM

**B** - 10YR 4/6 MOTTLED DARK YELLOWISH BROWN LOAM

**C** - 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAYEY LOAM

**FIGURE 20**  
**SQUARE 3-FEATURE 2**  
**PLAN VIEW**



**KEY:**



- ROCK

**A - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY SILT**

**B - 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM**

**C - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

**D - 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY**

PLATE 9

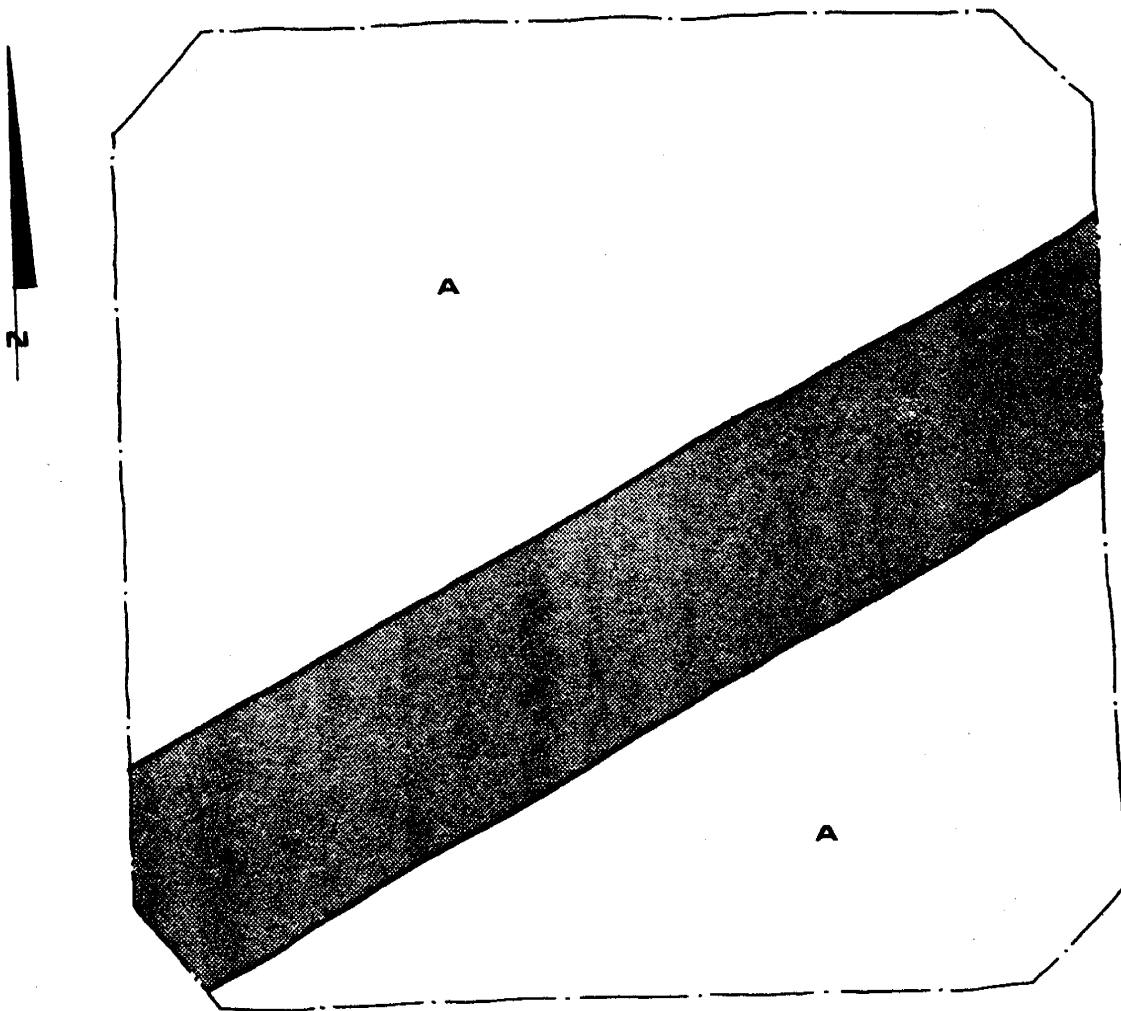
SQUARE 3 - FEATURE 2

FERGUSON  
SQUARE #3  
NORTH WALL  
7-17-81

FEATURE 2



FIGURE 21  
SQUARE 4-FEATURE 4  
PLAN VIEW



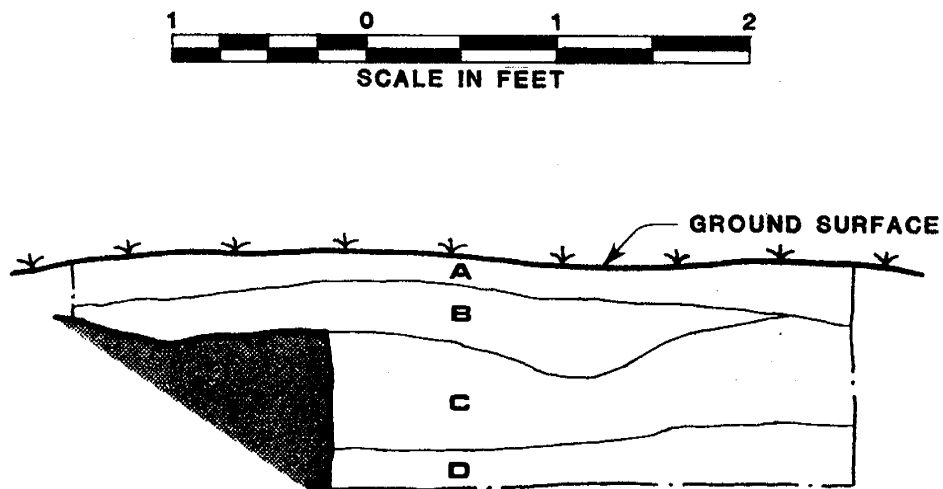
KEY:



- STONE WALL (FEATURE 4)

A - 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM

# **FIGURE 22** **SQUARE 4-FEATURE 4** **WEST WALL PROFILE**



## **KEY:**



- STONE WALL (FEATURE 4)

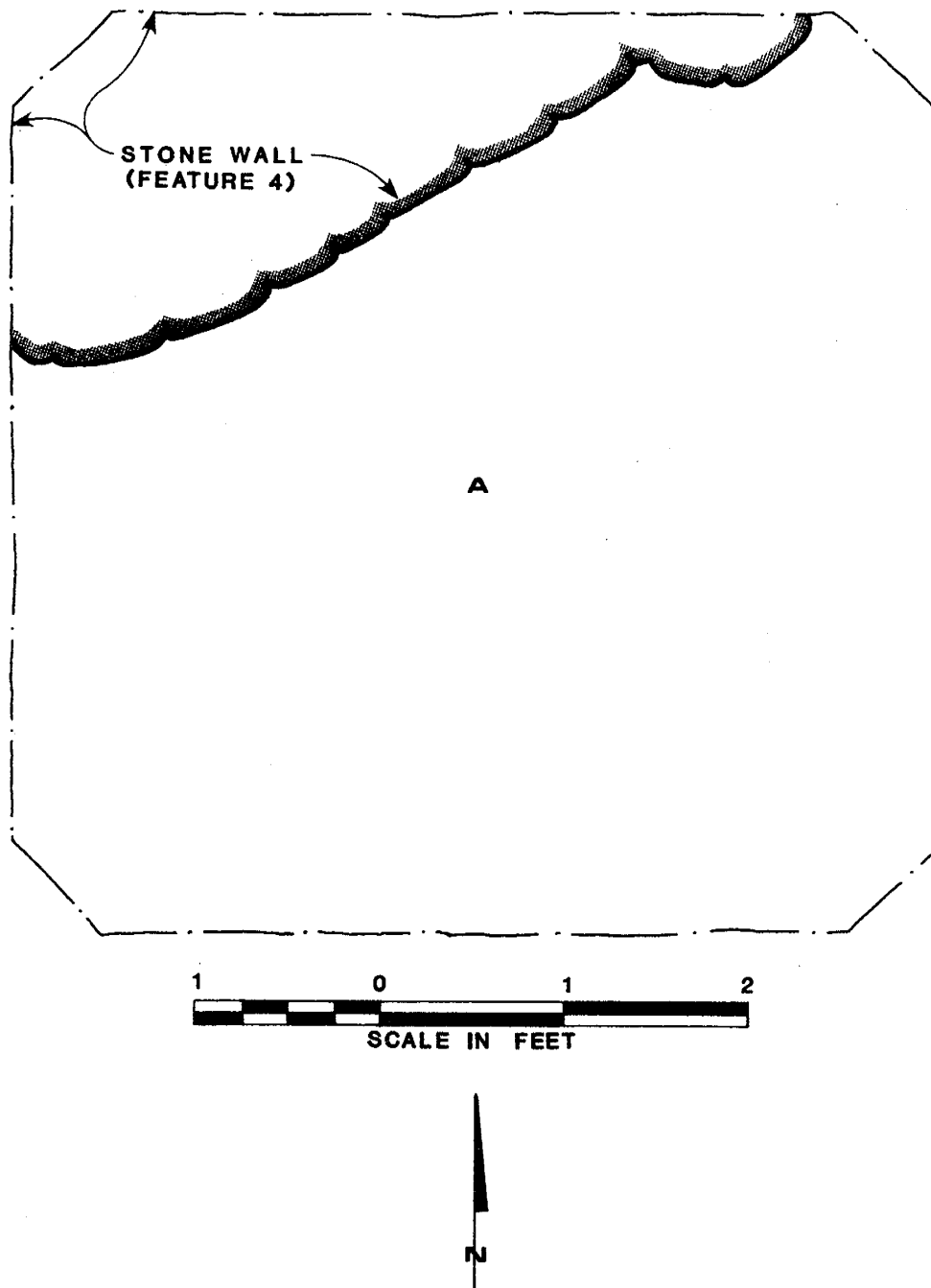
**A - 10YR 3/3 DARK BROWN HUMUS**

**B - 10YR 5/4 MOTTLED YELLOWISH BROWN LOAM WITH ASH, COAL, AND SLAG**

**C - 10YR 3/3 DARK BROWN CLAYEY LOAM**

**D - 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM**

FIGURE 23  
SQUARE 11-FEATURE 4  
PLAN VIEW

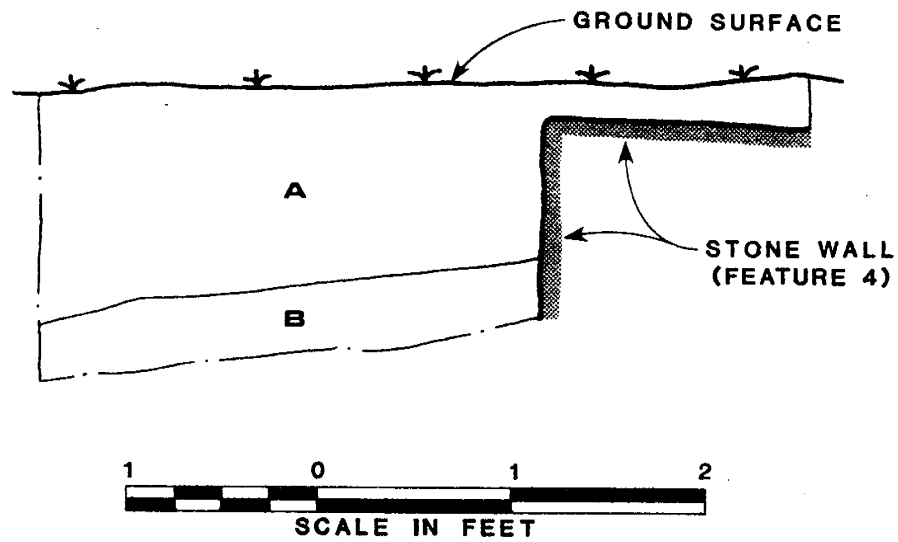


KEY:

 - STONE WALL

A - 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY LOAM

**FIGURE 24**  
**SQUARE 11-FEATURE 4**  
**WEST WALL PROFILE**



**KEY:**



-STONE WALL

**A - 10YR 3/3 DARK BROWN SILTY LOAM**

**B - 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY LOAM**

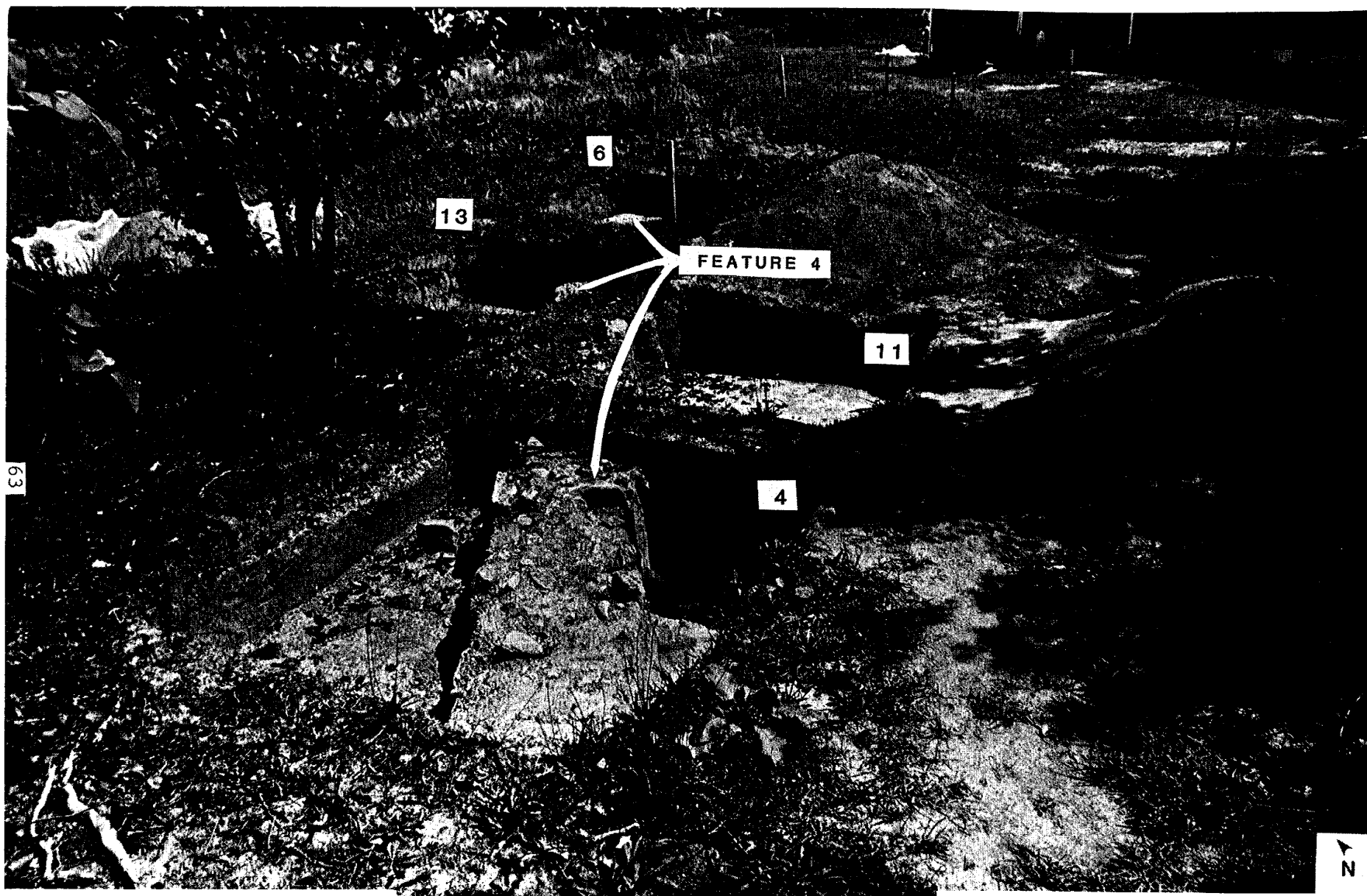
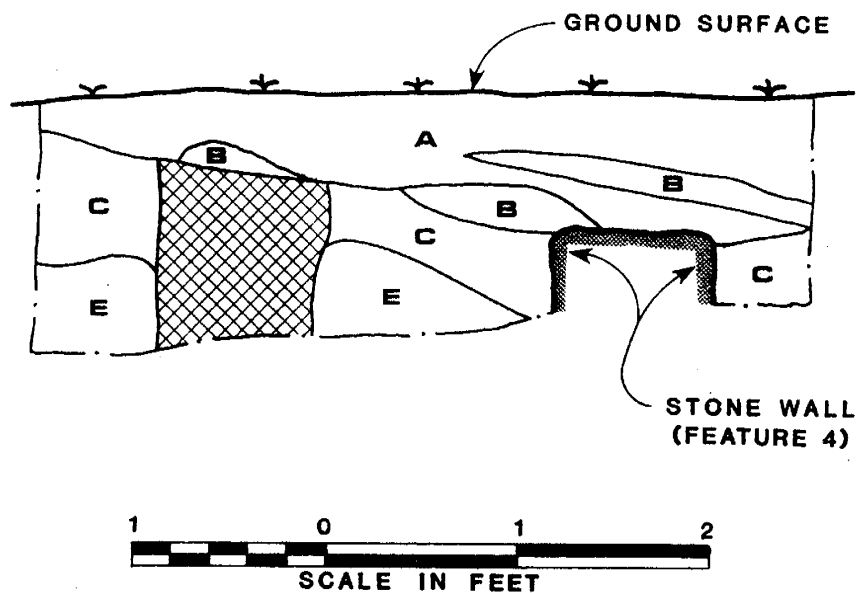


PLATE 10

SQUARES 4, 11, 13, & 6 - FEATURE 4

**FIGURE 25**  
**SQUARE 6-FEATURE 4**  
**WEST WALL PROFILE**



**KEY:**



- STONE WALL



- DISTURBED AREA

**A - PLOW ZONE**

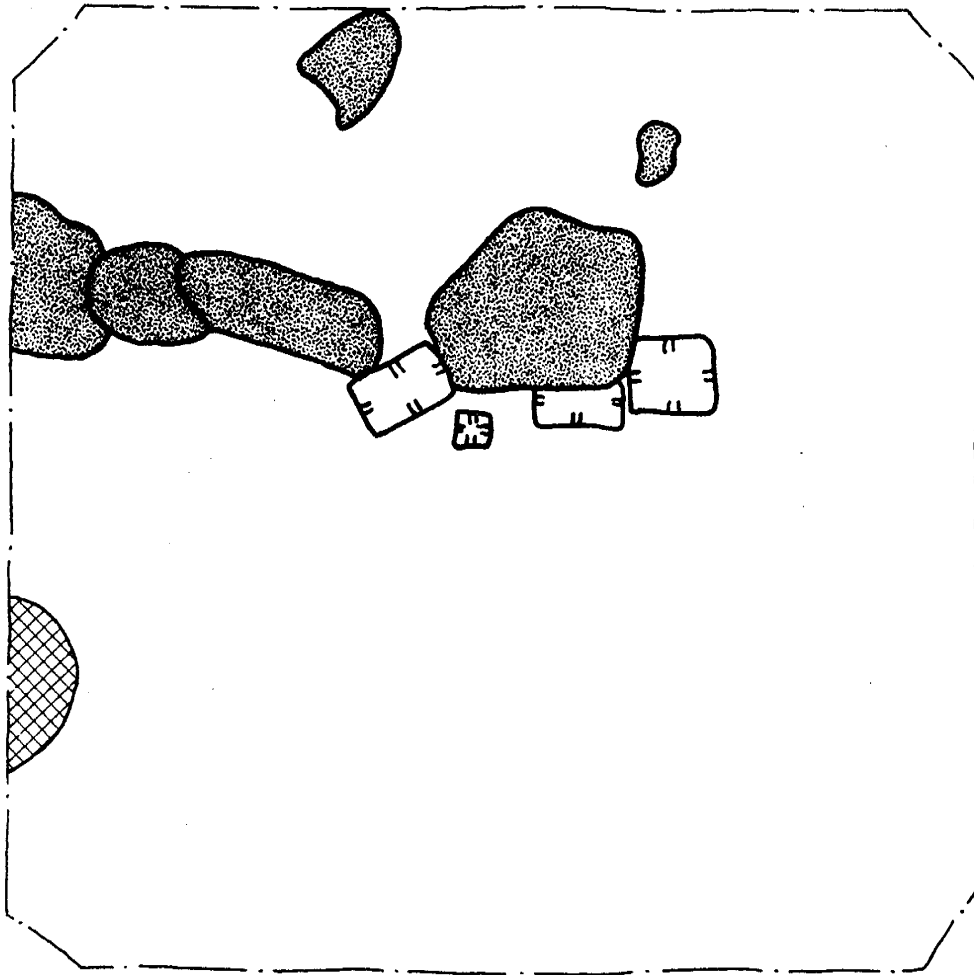
**B - 7.5YR 5/6 STRONG BROWN SELECT FILL**

**C - 10YR 3/3 DARK BROWN LOOSE SILT**

**D - NOT VISIBLE IN THIS VIEW**

**E - 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY CLAY LOAM**

FIGURE 26  
SQUARE 6-FEATURE 4  
PLAN VIEW



KEY:



- STONE

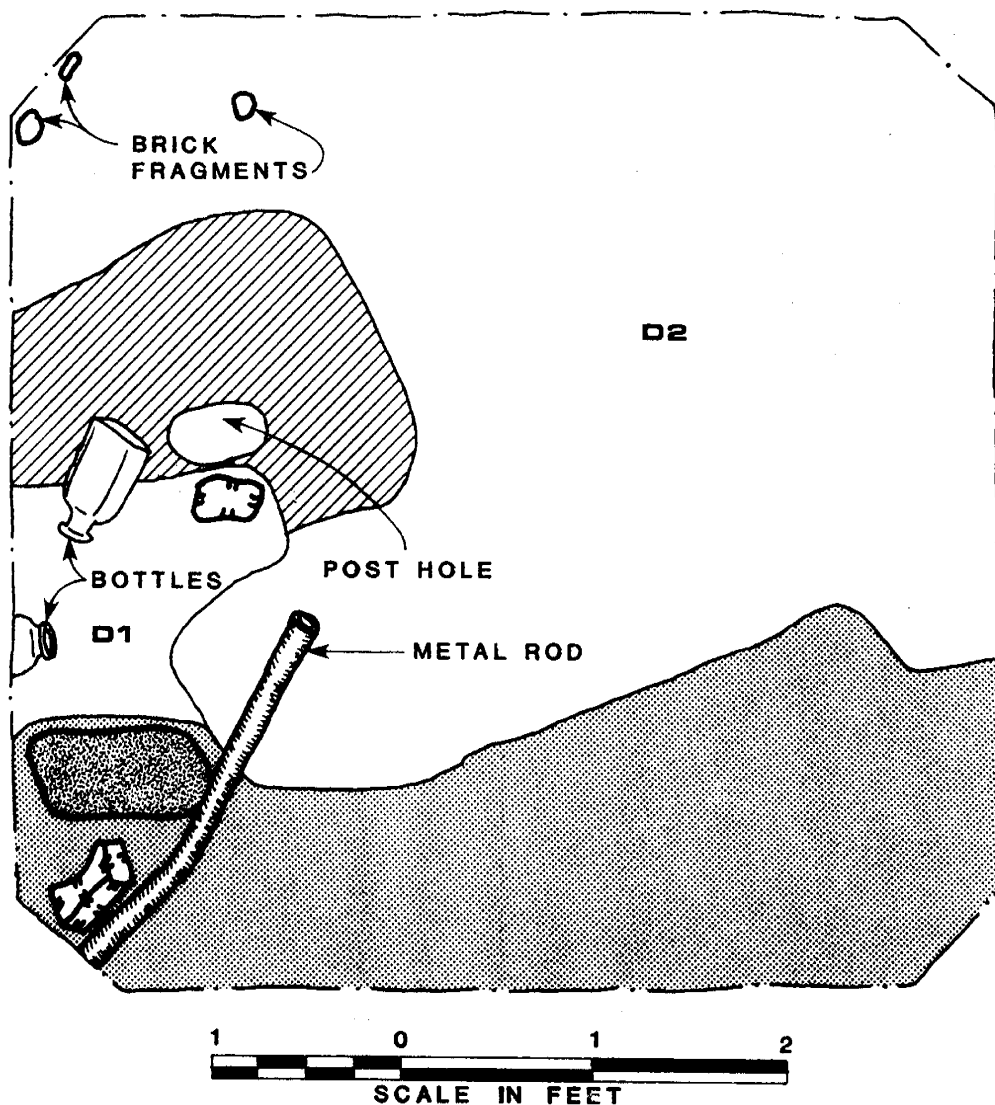


- BRICK



- DISTURBED AREA

FIGURE 27  
SQUARE 13-FEATURES 4 & 5  
PLAN VIEW



KEY:



- STONE



- WALL FRAGMENTS (FEATURE 4)



- FEATURE 5



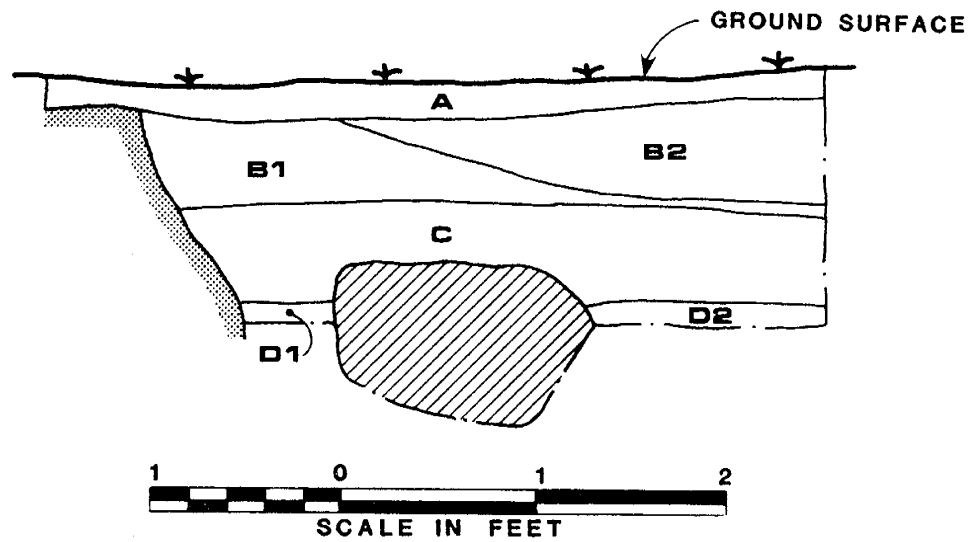
- BRICK

D1 - 10YR 3/3 DARK BROWN SILTY LOAM



D2 - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY



**FIGURE 28**  
**SQUARE 13-FEATURES 4 & 5**  
**WEST WALL PROFILE**



**KEY:**

-  - WALL FRAGMENTS (FEATURE 4)
-  - FEATURE 5

**A** - 10YR 4/2 DARK GRAYISH BROWN SILTY LOAM-TOPSOIL

**B1** - 10YR 5/2 GRAYISH BROWN SILTY LOAM

**B2** - 10YR 5/6 MOTTLED YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY LOAM

**C** - 10YR 4/3 DARK BROWN SILTY LOAM

**D1** - 10YR 3/3 DARK BROWN SILTY LOAM

**D2** - 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY

PLATE 11

SQUARE 13 - FEATURES 4 & 5

FEATURE 5

FERGUSON  
SQUARE 13  
FEATURE

7-1481

FEATURE 4

N

The foundation remains identified in Test Square 1 were further investigated by the excavation of Test Square 4 and 11 (Map 2). The rubble wall located in Test Square 1 was also found in these units and was covered by a lens of ash and demolition debris containing very few artifacts. Below this was encountered a well defined dry-laid stone wall, Feature 4, trending southwest-northeast through the squares (Figures 21, 22, 23, and 24, Plate 10). The ash deposit is interpreted to have been formed after 1943, when the structure on the foundation, a frame chicken house, was demolished (Alice Weber, pers. comm.). The chicken house is shown in a 1920's photograph of the north yard area and appears as a low slant-roofed building extending approximately 10 ft. north-south and 25 ft. east-west (Plate 5).

Test Square 6 was excavated to determine the northern limit of the foundation wall, Feature 4. Excavation revealed a fill layer which varied in depth from 0.2 ft. in the southwest corner to 0.89 ft. in the northwest corner. This fill contained a large number of nail, whiteware, redware, and glass fragments. Beneath this layer was an organic layer of dark silty loam which contained similar artifacts (Fig. 25). The terminis of the rubble wall, Feature 4 (Figure 26), which appeared to be partially demolished, was also encountered at this level. The subsoil extended from 0.9 ft. to 1.13 ft. below the surface and contained only nail and glass fragments and a subway token.

Test Square 13 was placed 5 ft. south of Test Square 6 to further define the extent of Feature 4. A section of the feature was located in the south part of the unit (Fig. 27), but continued out of the unit to the east, and thus its extent remained undefined. A fifth feature, was located in the west side of the unit at a depth of 1.1 ft. below the surface (Figures 27 and 28 Plate 11). This was encountered in a buried horizon extending from 0.7 ft. to 1.2 ft. below the surface and containing a relative high density of artifacts.

Recovered were large amounts of ironstone sherds, bottle and window glass fragments, nail fragments, and a 1911 Lincoln penny. The feature fill, which extended to a depth of 1.85 ft. below the surface, contained a similar artifact assemblage plus two early 20th century whiskey bottles. Feature 5 was probably formed as a result of water drainage of an animal disturbance in immediate proximity to, but outside of, the former chicken house foundation.

Test Square 14 was placed to investigate a "stone feature" identified by MAAR S-1, (Thomas 1980) and located in an obvious surface depression. The southern part of the unit revealed a disturbance containing tar paper, bricks, roofing tile, metal, aluminum foil, 20th century ceramics and glass, including six whole whiskey bottles (Figure 29). The excavation unit was extended to the south by 2 ft. and the feature excavated to a depth of 3.2 ft. below the surface (Plate 12). The western boundary of this feature was loosely defined by stacked 1 in. x 4 in. boards. Due to the modern nature of the feature, only half of its areal extent was excavated. The board-lined walls of this feature, plus the modern artifact content place its origin in the 20th century. The function of the feature, suspected to be a privy hole or storage shaft, was confirmed by an informant (Alice Weber, pers. comm.) as a privy used between 1943 and the 1960s.

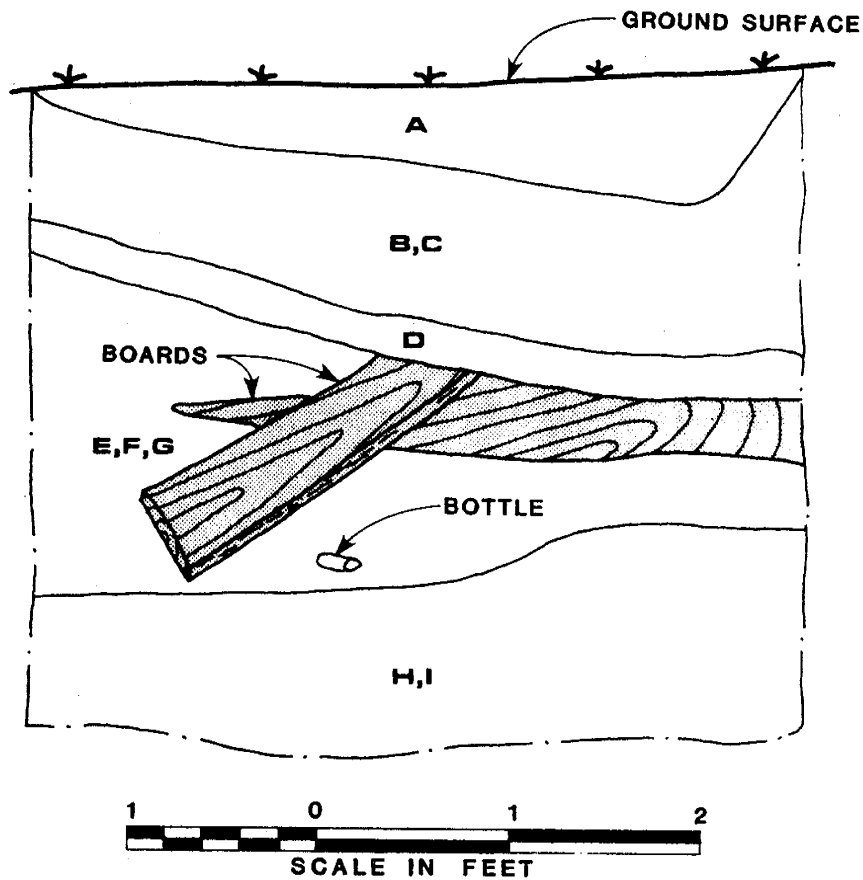
Test Squares 15 and 17 were placed a few feet northwest and west of Test Square 14 in an attempt to locate outbuildings or other features. Artifact content was limited to late 19th and 20th century ceramics and glass and nail fragments. No features or other disturbances were found.

In order to investigate an area of the site not previously tested by MAAR, a grid system was established west of the extant garage and posthole digger tests excavated at 5 ft. intervals (Map 2). This located the foundation remains of a barn structure which informants (Alice Weber and Charles Lynch,

# FIGURE 29

## SQUARE 14 EXTENSION-FEATURE 9

### SOUTH WALL PROFILE



#### KEY:

**A - SELECT FILL**

**B,C - 10YR 3/4 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY LOAM**

**D - 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN LOAM WITH DEMOLITION RUBBLE**

**E,F,G - 10YR 3/4 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY LOAM**

**H,I - 10YR 2/1 BLACK PEAT**

FEATURE 9

PLATE 12

SQUARE 14 - FEATURE 9

FERGUSON  
SQUARE 14  
FEATURE 9  
JULY 1964

N

pers. comm.) and maps indicated was present ca. 1893-1940. Shovel tests in Row C located the foundation, which consisted of small cobbles loosely bound together by soil and mortar. To determine the vertical depth of the foundation wall, Test Square 20 was excavated adjacent to an interior foundation wall and Test Square 21 was placed so as to bisect the probable location of the southern exterior wall. Test Square 20 revealed that the foundation wall extended to 1.6 ft. below ground surface and consisted of quartz and quartzite boulders mortared together (Plate 13). No evidence of a builder's trench was observed and artifacts located within the unit provided only a general interpretation of the time of construction. The structure appears to have been erected in the early to middle 19th century.

Test Square 21 revealed no foundation or footing for the barn. A large circular feature, Feature 7 (Figure 30, Appendix 10), was discovered in the eastern section of the unit. This 2.0 ft. deep sand-filled feature may have contained a major post support for the south facing open end of the barn structure.

#### Architectural Investigations

The architectural investigations of the Robert Ferguson house were designed to further detail the sequence of building stages and to provide information relevant to the research design concerning building techniques and materials. The present day exterior facing of the west and center sections were removed in order to expose the original facing (Plate 14). This defined the framing of the west section to be covered by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. x 8 in. horizontally, flat-nailed boards with no visible circular saw marks. The center section facing boards were  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. x  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in., horizontally flat-nailed, differing from the west section also by the presence of significant gaps of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. -  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. between the boards. The vertical wall framing members were also found to differ in

PLATE 13

SQUARE 20 - FEATURE 12

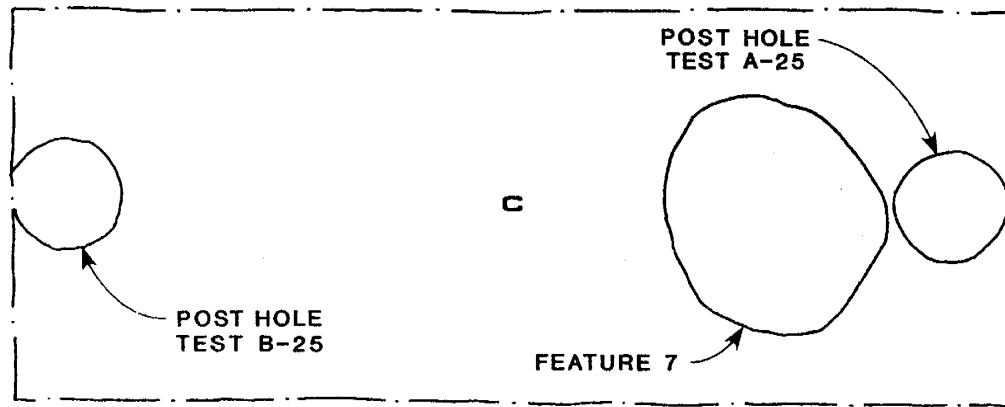
74  
← FEATURE 12

FENGUSON  
SQUAD

N



**FIGURE 30**  
**SQUARE 21 - FEATURE 7**  
**PLAN VIEW**

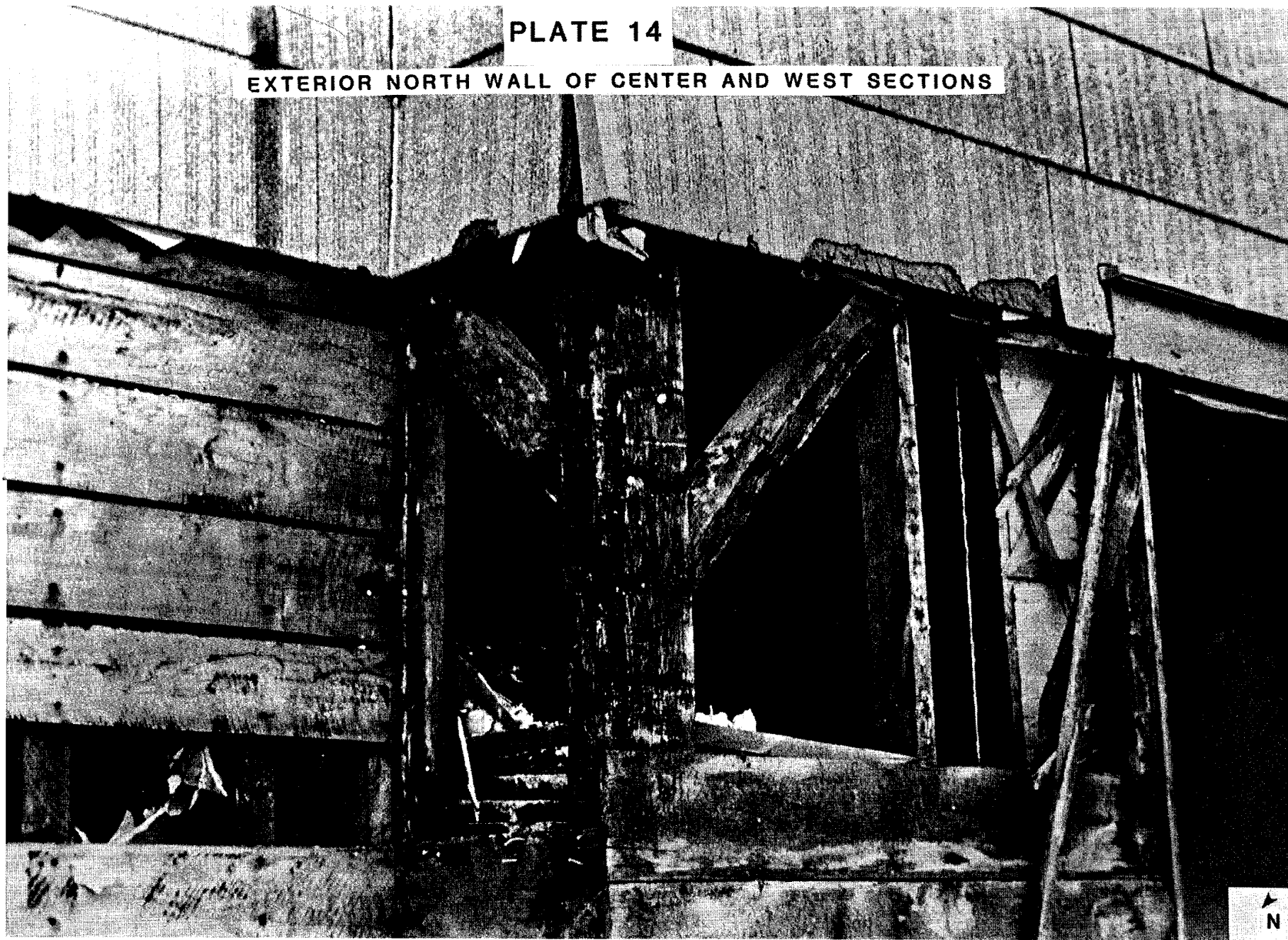


**KEY:**

**C - 10YR 4/8 DARK BROWN SANDY CLAY**

PLATE 14

EXTERIOR NORTH WALL OF CENTER AND WEST SECTIONS



size and spacing in the west and center sections. Those making up the west section were 2 in. x 3½ in., spaced 20 in. apart, while those of the center section were 3 in. x 4 in. and spaced 11 in. apart.

An examination of the interior walls of the structure also showed differing construction techniques and materials in the west and center sections. The framing of the west section consisted of a braced-frame design with 3 ¾ in. x 7¼ in. dimension main vertical members (Plate 15). The internal framing of the north wall of the central section made use of a combination of horizontally positioned logs, obviously salvaged from a prior use, braced by various techniques (Plate 16). The south wall revealed the more traditional technique of reused logs serving as major load-bearing members with a vertical stud support system present elsewhere (Plate 17).

### INTERPRETATION

The archaeological data base provided by excavation of the Ferguson House site proved generally unreliable for socio-economic or detailed temporal interpretation. It is apparent that the site has undergone extensive disturbance and mixing from plowing and 20th century landscaping. With the exception of Feature 6 (Test Square 18), the east yard area was found to be totally disturbed by plowing and landscaping. The north yard area contained two features and squares comprised of poorly-stratified 19th and 20th century deposits. A similar situation was encountered in the west yard, where intact structural features were located. Unfortunately, association of these features with diagnostic artifacts or materials was lacking.

While the vertical disturbance is acknowledged, the mapping of selected artifacts by test unit did define non-random deposition areas within the site (Maps 6 through 12). Seven general artifact types were mapped: creamware, pearlware, whiteware/ironstone, identifiable cut nails, identifiable wire nails,